

Canada's exhibit at Expo '74 – a permanent tribute to the residents of Spokane, Washington

Spokane, Washington, the scene of the world exposition, Expo '74, from May 4 to November 3, will retain a permanent reminder of Canada as a result of the creation of a natural park on Cannon Island, one of two islands on the river that runs through the centre of the United States city.

Some 45 species of trees and perennials found in the wilderness and parks of Canada will be planted on the 40,000-square foot Canadian exhibit. A variety of small animals, bushy-tailed squirrels, chattering chipmunks and others, will live in the park during Expo and it is hoped that many of them will make it their permanent home.

The park, with its distinctly Canadian flavour, will provide school children and students of nature with an outdoor classroom said to be "unequaled in its variety of trees, plants and little furry resident animals". A children's playground, containing fantasy animals to fit into the woodland setting, will be part of the area.

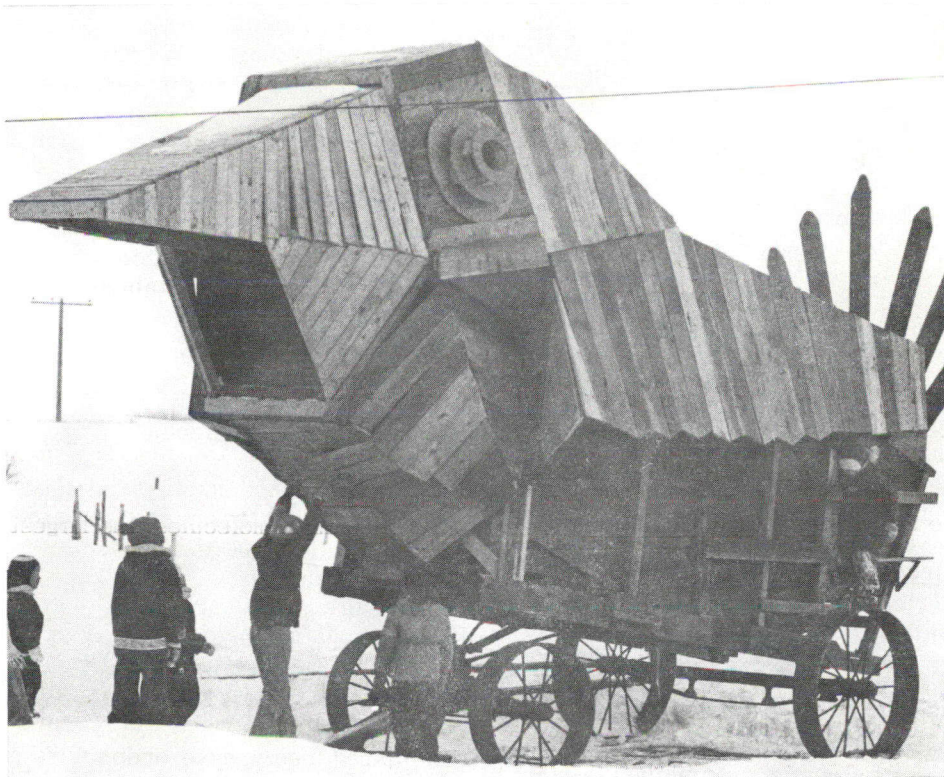
B.C. and Alberta exhibits

Owing to common environmental concerns and to their close association with Washington State, the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta have special exhibition areas on the island. The British Columbia pavilion, at the entrance, will include an exposition hall and audio-visual presentations specially designed for the environmental theme of Expo '74. An open-air amphitheatre where choirs, pipe bands, dance groups and string quartets can entertain, or where people can meet and talk to their hearts' content, is Alberta's contribution.

Children's playground

Saskatchewan artist, Russ Yuristy, commissioned to design and construct Canada's island playground, has created oversized "fun" animals, made from reusable and recycled materials, inside which and on which children can play. A lookout on one side of the park over the roaring river provides a superb backdrop for picture-taking, and a view of the city on either side of the Expo site.

The Canadian site manager, Philippe Cinq-Mars of Montreal, whose hobby is puppeteering, hopes to find sufficient time from his assignment to present



The "Super Prairie Crow", a combination playhouse, "climbthrough" and cavern, is one of the intriguing fantasy characters that children will discover on Canada's playground island at Expo '74 in Spokane, Washington from May to November. These enormous imaginary Canadian animals, designed

by Russell Yuristy of Silton, Saskatchewan from recycled materials like old barn sidings, discarded railway ties, oversized rubber tires, telephone poles and various sizes of coil springs, will remain in the playground along with the many smaller but real Canadian animals after Expo '74 closes.

puppet shows for the children visiting Expo '74, as well as in schools and hospitals.

While the playground and park hostesses will come from various parts of Canada, the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta will provide the staff for their own units.

Canada Week

Canada Week is scheduled for the end of August and beginning of September, including the Labour Day weekend, when the RCMP Musical Ride and the Feux Follets dancing troupe will be in Spokane. During the same week a special day will be devoted to Alberta and British Columbia. Such Canadian entertainers as Gordon Lightfoot and the Irish Rovers will perform during the exposition.

Canadians will be involved not just

in the restoration of historic Cannon Island but in many facets of the '74 Exposition. Canadian artists will be performing in the general concert series and Canadian painters will be prominent in an art show, specially mounted for Expo '74. Paul Kane, the Group of Seven and Emily Carr are among the Canadian artists selected. The National Gallery of Canada has loaned all the Canadian paintings except those by Emily Carr, which have come from the Vancouver Art Gallery and will be returned.

But the woodland park on Cannon Island will remain long after '74 has closed its doors. For it was designed as a tribute from Canada to the adventurous urban dwellers of Spokane, whose concern for the environment rejuvenated their city centre and provided the world with Expo '74.